the years 1977-78 and 1983-84. Statements giving the poverty estimates for West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and for the Country as a whole for 1977-78 and 1983-84 are enclosed. [*See* Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 165 and 166]

Handling of Child Births in Rural Areas by Untrained Practitioners

3067. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 70 percent child births in the rural areas are handled by untrained practitioners;

(b) whether our country lacks the infrastructure needed to handle the child births in the proper way; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent untrained practitioners handling child births endangering the life of the child as well as of the mother?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The rural health infrastructure is being strengthened to provide one Sub-centre for every 5000 population in the general areas and 3000 population in the hilly, tribals and remote areas. A subcentre is manned by an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (female health worker) who is trained to conduct deliveries. Also, the Traditional Birth Attendants (Dais), practising in the rural areas are being trained under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. So far 5·72 lakhs dais have been trained since the inception of the scheme in 1974.

Reduction in the cost of T.V. sets and VCR/VCPS

3068. SHRI T.R. BALU
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken by Government in the recent years to reduce the cost and import content in black and white and colour T.V. sets and in VCR/VCP;

(b) what is the result of these measures; and

(c) what is the projected import content for these products in 1992?

THE MINISTER OF S ATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The following measures have been taken by Government to reduce the cost and import content in B&W and CTV sets and VCR/VCP:

1. Issuing industrial approvals with viable production capacity so that economies of scale are derived and healthy competition encouraged.

2. Broadbanding of Industrial Licence approvals for Colour and B&W TV sets.

3. Re-endorsement of industrial capacities with reference to the minimum economic scale of operation has been allowed for Colour TV production.

4. Letter of Intent have been issued for setting up of VCR/VCP plants having in-depth manufacturing facilities with suitable